

### **LG&E** and KU Outage Improvements

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Vice President
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"Ike and Ice"

LG&E and KU experienced two worst storms in their history within six months of each other:

**September 2008 — Hurricane Ike** *375,000 LG&E/KU outages* 



February 2009 — Ice Storm 404,000 LG&E/KU outages



#### Post-storm reviews

Internal review

Areas of Improvement
Undergrounding
System Hardening
Customer Communications







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#### **Customer Communications**

Customer communication has become almost as important as the restoration.

In today's technological age, customers want information immediately.

Customers expectations have changed due to:

More timely information

Internet access, e-mail, texting

Emerging technologies, e.g., Twitter, Facebook,

other social networks

Customers need timely and accurate estimated restoration times (ERT) to make personal and business decisions.

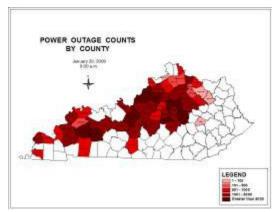


#### 2009 Improvements

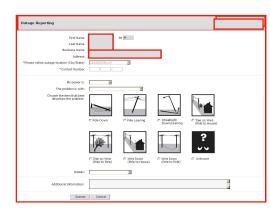
Added online maps for major events
Outage maps by zip code and counties
Restoration maps with general crew locations

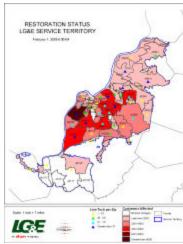
Online customer outage reporting

Using Twitter — www.twitter.com/eonus









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#### 2010 Planned Improvements

#### Provide estimated restoration times (ERT) during major storm events

**Enhanced focus on ERTs** 

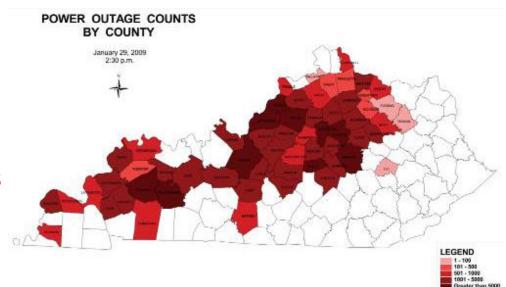
Local level with accuracy to the day

Improve IT infrastructure to aid in communication of ERTs

# Implement real-time online outage maps

Outage information Estimated restoration times

New ways to reach customers such as texting and e-mail



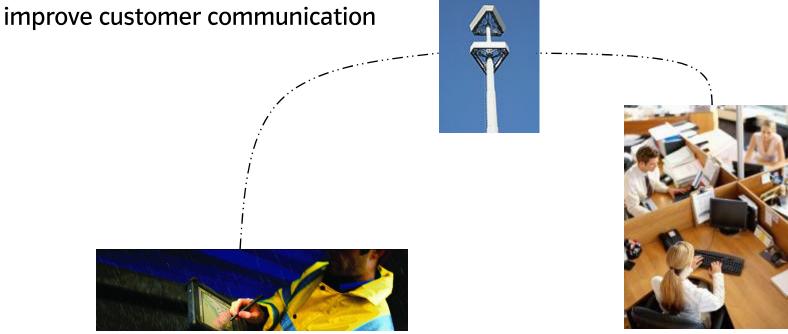


### Improvements Beyond 2010

#### **Streamline Communications to/from Field Crews**

Mobile technology for damage assessments, dispatch and estimated restoration times

reduce radio congestion



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### Underground vs. Overhead

#### **Advantages**

Improved aesthetics
Less weather dependent
Not subject to vegetation issues
Fewer outages



#### **Disadvantages**

Very costly — Distribution, \$24 billion;
Transmission, \$40 billion; Residential
bill increase more than \$300 per month
Cost to bury CATV, phone and other utilities is additional
Customer will pay cost of home modifications
Visual inspection is impossible, making repair more
difficult, costly and time-consuming
Outages can last longer



### **Typical Underground Installation**



Above: Underground pad mount transformer at the home

Right: Typical structure at end of neighborhood underground circuit



### Portions of River Road/Indian Hills/Glenview



Overhead circuit along Brownsboro road.

One of nine circuits feeding this area.





#### Portions of River Road/Indian Hills/Glenview

Cost to bury: \$15.8 million

Customers: 1,241

Cost per customer: \$12,700

**Considerations:** Low density, low traffic flow, mix of large and

small lots, normal right-of-way with probable rock

**Vegetation:** Heavy trees



#### Portions South of Rubbertown including Lake Dreamland

Cost to bury: \$13.3 million

**Customers:** 916

Cost per customer: \$15,500

**Considerations:** Low density, mostly

residential, low traffic flow,

small front lots, normal

right-of-way and easements

**Vegetation:** Low number of trees





### Portions of Cherokee Triangle and Bardstown Road

Cost to bury: \$22 million

**Customers:** 2,983

Cost per customer: \$7,400

**Considerations:** High density, large number

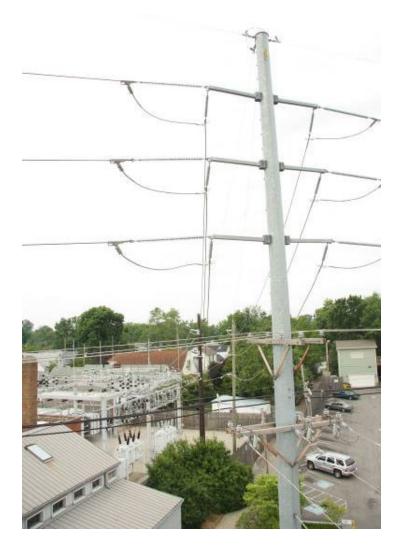
of businesses, high traffic

flow, mostly small front lots,

limited right-of-way

and easement

**Vegetation:** Heavy with mature trees





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#### **Davies Consulting**

Hired an independent firm to study: strengthening — "hardening" — our system

Davies Consulting (<a href="www.daviescon.com">www.daviescon.com</a>) is an industry leader in assessing system hardening and has worked with a number of major utilities throughout North America including:

AEP Pepco Holdings

Duke Power Progress Energy

Florida Power and Light Toronto Hydro

Oklahoma Gas and Electric Seattle City Light



### **System Hardening**

**Definition:** Strengthening the electric delivery system to better withstand major catastrophic weather events.

Aggressive tree trimming

Stronger poles

Bigger wires

Smaller clusters of customers







Expanded right-of-way



**Off-ROW Tree Hazard** 





Fuse protection



**Reclosers** 

Lightning arrestors



#### Conclusion of Davies Consulting Hardening Report

Undergrounding the entire system is prohibitively expensive.

EON U.S. should consider hardening its electric system.

E.ON U.S. should evaluate the willingness of its customers to support a hardening program and determine the appropriate level of spend.

At the appropriate level of funding, the overall hardening program should include:

Service Connection Undergrounding Pilot System-wide Hazard Tree Removal Circuit Hardening Program

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#### What Customers Say...

#### Something should be done

94 percent believe in the importance of outage prevention

#### Most approve of hardening alternatives

83 percent approve of tree trimming to prevent outages

71 percent approve of strengthening lines/poles

#### Most are willing to pay \$1 to \$2 per month for hardening

79 percent \$1 per month or more

56 percent \$2 per month or more

#### Unwilling to pay for more expensive undergrounding

39 percent willing to pay \$20 per month

3 percent willing to pay \$40 - \$60 per month